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SMALL BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

January 12, 2010

226 459

Ms. Rachel D. Campbell, Director  
Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E. Street S. W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Campbell:

This letter relates to the Indiana Rail Road Abandonment Exemption--Martin and Lawrence Counties, Indiana STB Docket No. AB-295 (Sub-No7x).

I am writing to you on behalf of the Lawrence County Economic Growth Council to openly object to the Indiana Railroad's application for abandonment of the above mentioned rail line. I urge you to reject this abandonment exemption on behalf of my constituents in Bedford and Lawrence County, Indiana.

I realize there are many considerations taken into account such as discontinuance of service and railroad abandonment. The Indiana Railroad did not give my constituents the opportunity to try and help to create business for the company. Rather, they immediately filed an application for total abandonment. Unfortunately the current state of the economy has caused unforeseen cutbacks by companies that have negatively impacted us all. Fortunately, my constituents in Bedford and Lawrence County are starting to see their economies recover but this move by Indiana Rail Road would halt their economic progress.

Please note that if the Lawrence County Growth Council does not have the availability of rail service, businesses looking to locate in the area will look elsewhere because the area would lack the basic infrastructure needed to be a success. Ms. Campbell, I urge you on behalf of my constituents, to help the Indiana Railroad grow their business by denying their application for abandonment. I know my constituents are eager to work together within the Region and State, to develop new economic development opportunities. If you allow this abandonment to take place at the current time, you will have crippled future opportunities for economic growth of Bedford and Lawrence County.

Best Regards,

*Sandy Blanton*

Sandy Blanton  
Indiana State Representative  
District 62

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